

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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O 051741 Z MAY 73 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9679

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 3812

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: OVIP VE
SUBJECT: SECVISIT LA-- VENEZUELA

REF: STATE 084469

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY AGREES TO PROPOSED PLAN FOR
SECRETARY AND PARTY TO VISIT CARACAS ARRIVING MONDAY
EVENING, MAY 14 AND DEPARTING TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 15.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY AGREES WHOLE VISIT ON CONFIDENTIAL
BASIS PENDING GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT SOMETIME NEXT WEEK.
IT ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO OUR COORDINATING
TIMING OF SUCH ANNOUNCEMENT WITH GOV AND EMBASSY
RECOMMENDS THAT WE RESPECT THEIR SENSITIVITIES IN THIS
REGARD.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSTANDS THAT MRS. ROGERS,
MRS. CASEY AND MRS. KUBISCH WILL BE ARRIVING AND INQUIRIES
AS TO WHETHER ANY OTHER LADIES FOR WHOM PROGRAM
APPROPRIATE INCLUDED IN PARTY.

4. IN INFORMALLY DISCUSSING VISIT, FOREIGN MINISTRY
SPOKESMAN ANTICIPATED -- AND EMPHASIZED THIS WAS HIS OWN
INFORMAL THINKING ONLY -- THAT PRESIDENT CALDERA OR
FONMIN CALVANI WOULD PROBABLY OFFER LUNCHEON IN HONOR
OF SECRETARY ROGERS. IN ADDITION TO THIS HE ENVISAGED
CALLS UPON FONMIN AND PRESIDENT, POSSIBLE WREATH- LAYING
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AT NATIONAL PANTHEON, AND ROUND- TABLE MEETING WITH
SELECTED MINISTERS OF GOVERNMENT FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS.
EXPRESSED INTEREST IN KNOWING BEFOREHAND WHETHER WE
ENVISAGE FIRM AGENDA OR ONLY GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ANY
SUCH SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. (IN SO DOING, HE EXPRESSED
SOME PREFERENCE FOR GENERAL GUIDELINES.) FOREIGN OFFICE
OFFICIAL ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER USG WOULD WANT JOINT
COMMUNIQUE AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT. HE SAID THAT
VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT PRACTICE VARIES ON THIS POINT WITH
SOME VISITS HAVING COMMUNIQUE AND OTHERS OMITTING IT.

5. IF MAJOR POLICY SPEECH IS MADE IN CARACAS, LUNCHEON
OFFERED BY PRESIDENT OR FONMIN WOULD SEEM IDEAL FORUM
TO BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE. THIS WOULD OFFER ADDITIONAL
ADVANTAGE OF REDUCING TRAVEL AROUND CARACAS BY COMBINING
TWO MAJOR EVENTS IN SINGLE OCCASION. IF THIS NOT
FEASIBLE, OR IF NO SUCH LUNCHEON GIVEN, NEXT BEST FORUM
WOULD BE HALLS OF CONGRESS, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT YET
ENTIRELY CLEAR WHETHER SPEAKING APPEARANCE THERE IS
RESERVED TO VISITING CHIEFS OF STATE. IF NEITHER OF THESE
AVAILABLE, PRESTIGIOUS NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION HERE
WOULD BE PREPARED OFFER LARGE LUNCHEON IN BALLROOM OF
A MAJOR HOTEL TO WHICH APPROPRIATE VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS
WOULD BE INVITED, AND WHICH WOULD LEND SELF VERY WELL
TO MAXIMUM MEDIA COVERAGE.

6. WE MENTIONED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL POSSIBILITY
OF PARTIAL SEPARATE SCHEDULE FOR UNDER SECRETARY CASEY,
BUT HIS IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS THAT BREVITY OF VISIT,
DESIRABILITY OF UNDER SECRETARY CASEY BEING PRESENT AT
ALL MAJOR FUNCTIONS, AND LIKELIHOOD THAT ANY ROUND- TABLE
WITH MINISTERS WOULD AUTOMATICALLY INCLUDE ECONOMIC
MATTERS IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS, ALL MILITATED IN
FAVOR OF HOLDING PRINCIPALS IN GROUP TOGETHER AND AGAINST
ANY SEPARATE SCHEDULE.

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